

.....

Learning in, through, and about the Arts

In grades primary to 3 classrooms across Nova Scotia, students have a variety of opportunities to explore the arts in three distinct ways.

When specific skills and techniques are taught in dance, drama, music, and visual arts, students are learning **“in”** the arts. When these skills and techniques are used to teach concepts in health education, language arts, math, science, and social studies, students are learning **“through”** the arts. Other arts experiences in school such as concerts, art exhibits, plays, and dance performances allow students to learn **“about”** the arts.

Learning in, through, and about the arts is important for the artistic, social, and intellectual development of students. What is even more important is that, through the arts, students can achieve success in ways that are not always possible in other areas of the curriculum.



This pamphlet is part of a series to inform parents about the Nova Scotia Department of Education Public School Program for students in grades primary to 3.

For more information, contact your child's teacher.

Let's talk about ...

Arts Education: Grades Primary–3



The Atlantic Canada Arts Education Curriculum is shaped by a vision of enabling and encouraging students to engage in the creative, expressive, and responsive processes of the arts throughout their lives.

The Arts—

A Fundamental Component of a Balanced Education for All Students

The arts—dance, drama, music, and visual arts—make specific and essential contributions to a student’s intellectual and aesthetic development, exploration of feelings and values, development of physical and perceptual skills, and personal and social education. The arts encourage students to make meaning of the complexities of life and make connections between themselves and others. They offer enjoyment and stimulate imagination.

Drama and Dance

In the elementary grades, drama and dance are integrated in other areas of the curriculum.

Drama is more than putting on a rehearsed play. Drama is a powerful tool for teaching and learning that helps students develop specific skills through creative drama activities. These activities allow students to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills as they immerse themselves in both verbal and nonverbal communication.

Dance is an essential component of both music and physical education. Students learn basic movement skills in these subjects and apply them as they learn concepts in other areas of the curriculum, such as using movement to explore different shapes in mathematics.

Music

Music in grades primary to 3 offers students unique ways to express themselves through songs, singing games, movement and dance activities, playing instruments, creating their own compositions, and listening and responding to music.

In music class students learn specific skills and techniques that enable them to use music to represent their learning in other areas. Through group music-making activities, they learn co-operative skills and develop self-esteem and confidence. Music allows students to explore diverse cultures and to develop a deeper understanding of the world in which we live.

Visual Arts

Visual arts provide students with opportunities for making, looking, and reflecting. They are a dynamic part of our life and culture, providing pleasure and enjoyment, as well as encouraging students to gain deeper insight and awareness.

In grades primary to 3, experiences in visual arts enable students to think critically, to be imaginative, and to express their thoughts and feelings.

Art-making is highly engaging, motivating, and fun. Feelings, emotions, and understandings that are not experienced in other classroom activities often emerge through art lessons.

Through engaging in visual arts, students become more aware of art in their environment.

let's talk about ...